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DKLL Annual Report 2023-2024

Duquesne University

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Duquesne Kline Law Library (DKLL)

Annual Report 2023-2024

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Duquesne Kline Law Library (DKLL) continued its commitment to strategic thinking, ingenuity, and collaboration. Priorities included expanding outreach, services, and resources while promoting the [mission](#) of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

Highlights

- AI Initiatives - new product demos and AI best practices in legal research
- Upgraded 2 new SCANNX scanners
- Facilitated scholarship communication: 154,941 downloads from [Digital Commons](#)
- Continued teaching opportunities: each public services librarian taught legal research for credit (Dana taught *Climate Change Law, Research and Writing*; Chuck & Katie co-taught *Research for Law Practice*, Katie also co-taught (with Dr. Mark Dunn) *Law Office Technology*
- Library Task Force evaluated study aids packages
- Digitization of the collected works of Prof. Bruce Ledewitz, including his *Hallowed Secularism Blog Posts 2007-2021*
- Published *Mistick Speaks* a compilation of five years of Prof. Joe Mistick's op-eds (2019-2023)
- The values of empathy, equity, justice and diversity permeated the library collection and services.



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COLLECTION

DKLL remained committed to its [Collection Development Policy](#) which supports the [mission](#) of Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University and its curricular demands. As part of cost containment efforts, the Print Library Savings Plan was renegotiated.

DKLL continued to develop new processes and procedures in the new EBSCO FOLIO library services system to manage print and electronic resources. New MARC import tables were configured.

The library fulfilled one hundred percent of faculty requests for a second year in a row.

"I cannot thank [the librarians] enough as I have worked directly with them and they always meet and exceed my needs."
2024 Spring Faculty Survey Comment

SERVICES

In 2023-2024, the librarians delivered reference services in-person, by telephone, and online through lawlibrary@duq.edu and [LibChat](#). Faculty presentations continued each semester. The library also implemented a LibCal feature to easily [schedule individual appointments](#) with a Law Librarian. In collaboration with Gumberg Library, DKLL librarians also create the Law Library Resources LibGuide for use in Canvas courses.

DKLL incorporated empirical data from its semi-annual faculty and student surveys (fall and spring) to expand and evaluate its services. DKLL also met with the Student Bar Association (SBA) to hear student suggestions each semester.

At the request of SBA, the library created a policy of accepted levels of noise by floor. New HDMI charging cords and other adapters were purchased for student use. Two new scanning stations are also now available in the



Survey data shows that 82% of faculty respondents are very satisfied with the library support of faculty research and teaching with 18% mostly satisfied.



A selection of the new titles added to the collection this year.



The top 3 Study Resource Guides Used by Law Students and Faculty:

- [U.S. Supreme Court](#)
- [Civil Procedure](#)
- [Generative AI & Legal Education](#)

DKLL proudly provides 489 SEATS and 18 STUDY ROOMS!



"Library staff have always been prompt and helpful in replying to requests for information."

(2023-2024 law student survey response)

DKLL Is a Pillar of Intellectual Life

The library space was again used for experiential teaching and learning. Five DKLL [Legal Talk](#) series events were hosted in the McGinnis Multicultural Room. Each Legal Talk was recorded and disseminated on [DKLL's YouTube Channel](#).

DKLL Is Sustaining Excellence in Teaching and Learning

DKLL is at the forefront of scholarly dissemination, through its [Digital Commons](#), open to faculty and students alike. In December 2023, DKLL finished the digital compilation of Prof. Bruce Ledewitz's works and published a compilation of his Hallowed Secularism blog posts.

DKLL is also at the forefront of scholarly publication. In April 2024, Duquesne Kline Law Library published a compilation of Professor Joe Mistick's op-eds entitled *Mistick Speaks: a Collection of Tribune Review Columns 2019-2023*.

DKLL faculty taught classes on legal research each semester and offered research sessions to students, faculty and staff as needed. For the first time, DKLL faculty in collaboration with the Legal Research and Writing Center under the leadership of Associate Dean for Strategic Academic Programs Tara Willke, taught three sessions on the use of generative AI and the legal research process to all 1L students. "It is important the that [students] know the different ways of conducting legal research."*

Ten papers from Dana's experiential class on *Climate Change: Law Research and Writing* were published in collaboration with [JOULE on their website](#).

DKLL is a Pillar of Wellness Services

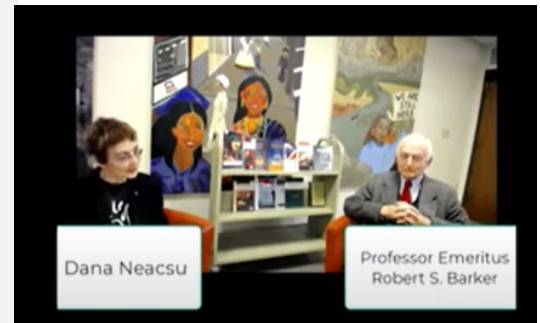
The wellness program activities continued and included organized gamedays, museum trips, and continued the casual art making space. A book exchange was added to the Procrastination Table this year.

DKLL Is a Center of Equity and Inclusion

The DKLL Director participated in the 14th McGinley-Rice symposium, *The Face of the Person Who Is Incarcerated* and in Gumberg Library's fall Social Justice Book Club on prison libraries. Amy Lovell attended the Social Justice Book Club fall event. DKLL staff attended the University's MLK Jr. Day Walk and Luncheon event organized by Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Crystal McCormick Ware. Staff also attended the University's Juneteenth event.



Director Dana Neascu presented at the Social Justice Reading Club sponsored by Gumberg Library in November 2023 concerning Prison Libraries & the Right to Read While Incarcerated.



Director Dana Neascu interviewed Professor Emeritus Robert Barker in November 2023 as part of the DKLL Legal Talks Series

DKLL LEGAL TALK SERIES

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP IN 10 QUESTIONS – ROBERT BARKER

McGINNIS MULTICULTURAL ROOM – 118,
Monday, November 6, 2023 – 10:30 – 11:30 AM

DKLL Director, Associate Professor of Legal Skills, Dana Neascu will moderate this speakers' series, whose purpose is to promote the library space as a center of knowledge production and intellectual exchange between the Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty, students and staff.

In September, Professor Emeritus Robert Barker will sit down with Dana and answer the 10 questions.

Please RSVP to lawlibrary@duq.edu and let us know if you will attend in person or via zoom.

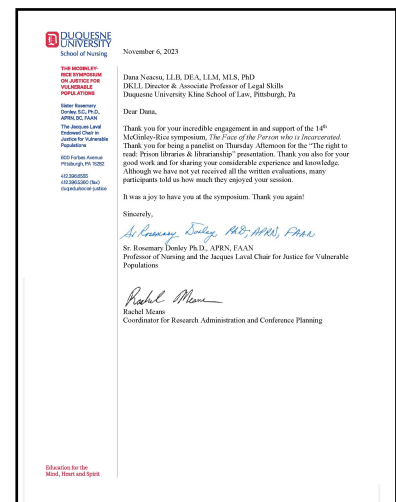
The first 12 people will be guaranteed a slice of pizza!

Fall 2023 Professors in the Series
October: Prof. Maryann Morris | October: Prof. Jane Moriarty
November: Prof. Robert Barker

2023-2024 Professors in the Series
Prof. Wes Oliver | Prof. Bruce Ledewitz | Prof. Ashley London |
Prof. John Rice | Prof. Richard Haggner

The 10 Questions

1. How would you like to introduce yourself?
2. What inspires you to write?
3. Who are your favorite legal authors?
4. What area of your scholarship would you like to talk about today?
5. What are the main ideas behind it?
6. What does it add to the existing body of literature in this field?
7. How do you think the publication has affected your teaching and scholarship so far?
8. What are you working on right now?
9. What would you like to work on next?
10. What would you like to share with your students as a final thought?



*Katie Lynch quoted in "The Write Skills: Practice-Ready Skills Remain the Focus of LRW Program" *Salus Populi* (spring 2024).

STAFF UPDATES

Kathleen (Katie) Lynch, J.D., M.L.I.S., Faculty Research and Outreach Services Librarian continued to manage the [Duquesne Legal Research Paper Series on SSRN](#) and the [Duquesne Digital Commons](#). Katie co-taught the *Law Office Technology* course during the fall and spring semesters with Dr. Mark Dunn. Katie also co-taught the *Research for Law Practice* course during the fall and spring semesters with adjunct professor, **Charles Sprowls**.

DKLL's Head of Information Access and Student Services, **Chuck Sprowls**, M.L.I.S. continued to publish the *Duquesne Kline Law Library News*, a bi-weekly update for law students regarding DKLL programs, services, and announcements. He supervises the Evening and Weekend Supervisor and 10 to 12 library student assistants who provide essential operational support while developing exemplary professional skills.

As the Assistant Director for Resource Development and Metadata Services, Amy Lovell, M.L.S., continued to manage the law library's data in EBSCO FOLIO and is DKLL's representative on the FOLIO Implementation Team. She also assisted with compiling benchmark data for the library's review of its study aids packages. **Adrianne (AJ) Jones** provided vital help with various data cleanup projects following the FOLIO migration.

Dana Neacsu, LL.B., D.E.A., LL.M., M.L.S., Ph.D., continued her *Climate Change* course. Dana presented at "Duquesne Law Speaks - 9/22" on *Sackett v. EPA* (2023). In July 2023, Dana continued her duties the Director of the National Conference on Legal Information and Teaching (CoLIST aka Boulder Conference) which took place in Boston, MA.

Adrianne (AJ) Jones was the Evening and Weekend Supervisor from September 2023 to February 2024. **Chuck Sprowls** and **Katie Lynch** headed the search committee for new Weekend Librarian position. **Alyce Gaines** will join the staff later this summer in this new position.

Continued Professional Development Remains a Priority for DKLL

Law librarians and staff participated to a variety of professional development opportunities and webinars on a wide variety of topics including: marketing, government publications, collection development and licensing, and technology engagement.

Noteworthy Achievements

Dana Neacsu, continued on IFLA's Law Library Committee representing U.S. law school libraries.

Chuck Sprowls continued to serve on the Duquesne University Senate. He is the longest serving senator.

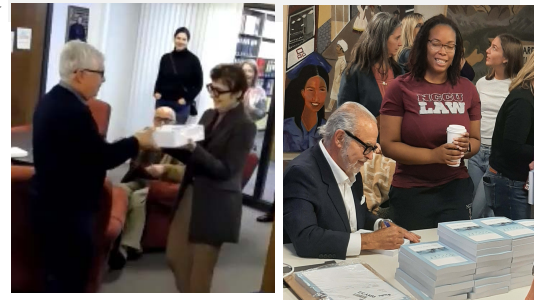
Dana Neacsu, presented at the McGinley-Rice Symposium on The Right to Read: Prison Libraries Past & Present in October 2023.

Amy Lovell completed a certificate for Generative AI for Executives and Business Leaders (Coursera/IBM) and a certificate for Preparing Data for Analysis with Microsoft Excel (Coursera/Microsoft)

Dana Neacsu, presented at AALS on the Security of Position for Law Librarians (Jan. 2024.)

Katie Lynch served on the AALL's Academic Law Libraries-SIS Student Services Committee, while Dana ended her tenure on the ALL-SIS JEDI Committee.

Dana Neacsu, presented at AALL Professors' Corner - SCOTUS on WOTUS: What Sackett v. EPA means for water rights and resources (April 9, 2024) <https://shorturl.at/TanyM>



(left) The library hosted a Celebration for the Digitization of Professor Bruce Ledewitz's work (Dec. 2023) and (right) a celebration of Mistick Speaks by Professor Joe Mistick.

LOOKING AHEAD

DKLL looks forward to continuing and increasing its role:

- in the faculty scholarship production and dissemination,
- in student learning and wellness activities and
- in promoting accessibility, diversity, equity, inclusion, social and racial justice.

DKLL Faculty remains committed to direct engagement with the community and the space will be further used for experiential teaching and learning. The library will house the Robert Taylor - Bruce Ledewitz Collection.

*I did not have a resource like our law library [DKLL] at my last job.
I'm very grateful for the work you all do!
-- Duquesne Kline Law Professor*